

The positive outcomes of a community working together on common goals for common sense are being celebrated today in our community. This month two national publications have identified Genesee County and the communities of the county as **“places to live and work”**.

Progressive Farmer has listed Genesee County as the 8th Best Place to live in the North East. Public amenities such as: high quality schools, medical facilities, transportation, culture and stable economy were taken into consideration for the listing. Mentioned prominently was the favorable interface of suburban with rural landscapes. This listing clearly points out that we cherish the rural agricultural activity that provides both stable local economy and green space view sheds.

Site Selector Magazine, used in locating business and industry has selected Genesee County as #3 in the nation as the best places to locate a business. This listing took into consideration the number of projects moving into our county, jobs created and jobs retained along with activity of investment in buildings for business. Once again the power and energy of working collaboratively is impacting our community in concrete positive form. As a community we can only be pleased to have a great reputation of caring for ourselves and inviting others in to be a part of a GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK!

As the subject of working together is featured, this month a list of collaborative projects with our community partners is warranted. Together we can accomplish more through effort and energy that individually.

Agreements that exist between governmental agencies allowing for cooperative activity are called 5-G Intermunicipal Agreements. Town of LeRoy has several that we are part of. Other activity needs no such legal binding but only a mindset of common goals for common sense.

Current 5-G agreements would include:

Snow and Ice control with New York State Department of Transportation- the state contracts with us to provide for snow plowing on certain sections of road that the local municipal trucks are already using to get to and from the town roads. The state pays for the material, time and portion of the cost of ownership of the equipment in the formula to make the entities whole on the costs.

Snow and Ice Control with Genesee County – the County contracts with us for snow plowing on county roads within the municipality that the local trucks are already on. County pays the Town for material, time and a portion of cost for ownership of the vehicles.

Cooperative purchasing – we purchase most materials used in the daily function of Town government from State, County or approved vendors to reduce the cost of individual purchasing. More quantity, larger aggregate volumes = lower prices for our taxpayers.

Currently we are investigating a potential energy savings by entering into a municipal buying group. We have submitted Town energy bills for usage calculation with 6 towns and 14 school

districts. This may provide an offset to the increases in energy costs. Focusing on common goals through common sense approach.

County Roadside Mowing Contract – contract with County and Town to mow the roadsides during the growing season for traffic safety. Town owned equipment is already on the roads moving to and from town roads, on county roads, so we turn on the mower and perform functions for two entities at the same time. The taxpayers realize cost savings.

Community Fuel Farm – together Ambulance, Fire, School, Town and Village built and utilize a fuel farm for all entities. Cost of improvements and updates are shared. Billing is performed by one agency and another collects payments. Built in security and audit trail for auditors is featured in the program. We collectively purchase in bulk at state or county bid pricing to ensure lowest responsible pricing.

Genesee Region Transportation Priority Trails – through the local master plans a grant was submitted to perform a feasibility study for walking paths in the Town and Village. The project was funded. Through the collective process, the Town landowners declined to participate in the project, yet the Village portion has the support of the Town Board. Collectively we all gain by working together.

Bunnell Park is a prime example of working together to enhance quality of life in the LeRoy community. School district owned land, park facilities built by a bequest and grant funds, while upkeep is performed by the school district. Collectively, as a community we now have a beautiful park pavilion, basketball court, bathroom facilities and walking trail for the enjoyment of LeRoyans.

Public Water upgrades and new districts are a function of a forty-year contract with Monroe County Water Authority, County and Town. Together by joining and sharing local resources we have enlarged the public water access to locations hard hit by disaster and naturally occurring life safety and health issues. We have been able to provide a source of safe, public water to our community as a quality of life factor.

Just beginning is a countywide survey of the waste water systems in the county and areas in need of wastewater remediation. The legislature has generously included the entire county to understand what the current capacity is and what the current and future need is for wastewater. The survey will be used by all communities to understand the state of their needs and possible solutions to remediation. Joining together for common goals through common sense.

With the New York State Department of Conservation we have a shared agreement to use a portion of the hangar building to measure ozone at the highway facility. The monitoring is helpful in gathering information to measure air ozone levels prior to entering a city environment.

Sharing at local levels a Pictometry program has enhanced planning in Genesee County. The program utilizes fly over photos and overlays of boundary lines, such as Agriculture Districts, Water District, Town Line, Village Line or even soil types to aid in local land use planning decisions. New York State is a home rule state, or land use decisions are based on the Town level makes this sharing of technology productive to local government and provides for common information at all steps of a process.

Pilot agreements for Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreements are possibly one of the best types of cooperative agreements. Local industry using pilot agreements instead of tax payments are contributing to the local tax base through sales tax collected, providing jobs and paying their pilot payments to local governments. LeRoy has several entities utilizing pilot payments and are a benefit to our community.

5-G agreements with our closest local government partner, the Village, include Recreation, Police and Code/Zoning Enforcement. These agreements are subject to ratification by both entities with a common goal in mind.

Through Recreation the entities agree to maintain their individual facilities, have program run on the facilities and the Town provides personnel and programs.

Police contract stipulates that, as Village Police are able to respond they shall respond in the Town outside limits under certain situations. Town reimburses Village all costs to ensure Village taxpayers are made whole. No additional costs should be borne by Village taxpayers when answering a call in the town outside. Annually, the rates are reviewed and adjusted.

Bailiffs are provided to the Court function at a reimbursed rate to the Village. Again, making the Village taxpayer whole.

Joint activity in the Code and Zoning department has seen great strides in simplifying our process. Together we have joined the Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals. We are now working towards one code for the community instead of two. Being streamlined is more inviting to business and industry look at LeRoy as a business friendly community. New York State Department of State values the forward thinking of the community and awarded a grant to cover the cost of joining the codes and update the zoning map for the community. Together we are able to attract more positive attention for LeRoy.

More importantly, sharing of staff, knowledge and resources is commonplace in daily function of particularly Highway and DPW crews. Continuity, shared equipment and product knowledge pays off low cost alternative solutions. This collaboration is vital and empowering to citizens of LeRoy. Examples are: Sidewalks installed on Summit Street, Drainage area northwestern area of Village/Town and most recently brine technology adaptation by Town highway crew.

There are even more agreements and memorandums of understanding to list, yet these collective actions are important for the community to continue to be stable and grow in the future. Support for projects collectively are good for all citizens in our community.

Quick things to remember:

LeRoy Photography Contest – Entries are welcomed at any time. Final submission date is June 30, 2006. Plan on participating. The Jr.-Sr. High School is currently displaying the 2005 winning photographs. Check them out!

Join us for regularly scheduled meetings in the next month:

Thursday, March 23 Town Board, 7:00 PM Town Hall

Tuesday, March 21, LeRoy Planning Board, 7:30 PM Town Hall

Only if necessary, Zoning Board of Appeals, Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30 PM Village Hall

As always, please feel free to contact me at 768-6910 ext. 231 or supervisor@leroy.ny.gov your comments are very much appreciated.

Shelley Stein, Supervisor